MR. DAVID YOUNG

PRINCIPAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS, GUELPH

PRESIDENT

SOME RECOLLECTIONS

OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE

ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

BY

R. ALEXANDER

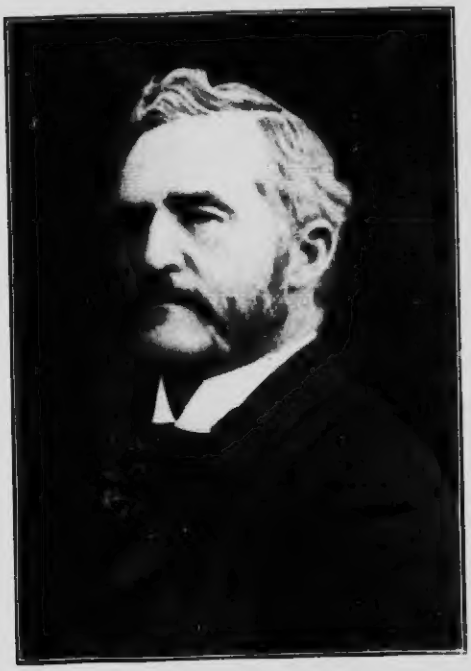
GALT

FORMER PRESIDENT

TORONTO

MORANG & CO. LIMITED

1904



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1863-64-65	Daniel Wilson, LL.D.
1866-67	Rev. William Ormston, D.D.
1868	William McCabe, LL.B.
1869-70	S. S. Nelles, D.D.
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1879-80	Robert Alexander.
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1901-02	John Henderson, M.A.
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Some Recollections of the Early History of the Ontario Educational Association

IN 1860 I attended the fourth annual meeting of the National Teachers' Association of the United States, held in Buffalo. On my return I brought before the Teachers' Association of North York the need of a Provincial Association, and pointed out some of the benefits that might reasonably be expected to flow from the union of the teachers of Canada West in such an annual gathering. The Association of North York appointed a committee to call the attention of teachers and others interested in education to the desirability of such an Association. The committee—having appointed Mr. Wm. Henry Irwin, chairman, and R. Alexander, secretary—issued a circular, which was printed as a supplement of "The Journal of Education for Upper Canada," then published by the Chief Superintendent and sent by him to each school section in the province, calling the attention of the teachers to the matter, and requesting delegates to be sent to a preliminary meeting, to be held in the Court House in Toronto, on the 25th of January, 1861. In response to the call of the committee about one hundred and twenty persons assembled to deliberate on the matter.

W. J. HENDRY

PRINCIPAL JESSE KETCHUM SCHOOL, TORONTO

GENERAL TREASURER

The meeting was organised by electing as chairman the late Dr. Jennings, of Toronto. The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That the interests of the profession render it necessary that we form ourselves into a Teachers' Provincial Association." On motion it was agreed that "the Association shall be styled the Teachers' Association of Canada West." A constitution was adopted, subject to amendment, by a majority vote, of a meeting to be held at Toronto in August. The preamble to the constitution declared that the objects of the Association were:

1. To secure the general adoption of the most approved systems of imparting instruction.

2. To secure the improvement of our text-books, or the adoption of others more suitable to the wants of the community.

3. To enlarge the views of the teachers and stimulate their exertions for the advancement and diffusion of knowledge.

4. To encourage the frequent interchange of ideas and kindly intercourse among the members of the profession throughout the country.

The first President of the Association was the late T. J. Robertson, Esq., M.A., Head Master of the Toronto Normal School. The first meeting for the discussion of educational topics was held on August 6th, 1861, in the city of Toronto, and continued for two days. In the absence of the President the 1st Vice-President, the late Archibald Macallum, M.A., LL.D., of Hamilton, presided. Mr. Macallum was one of those who took an active part in the organisation of the Association in 1861, and up to his death he continued an active, able and

MISS L. P. MACKENZIE
BRANTFORD
CHAIRMAN

MISS M. V. YELLOWLEES
TORONTO
SECRETARY

judicious member. The second President was the Rev. Dr. McCaul, President of Toronto University, and the meeting during his term was held in Hamilton. On account of the abscence of the President Mr. Macallum again filled the chair. Dr. Daniel Wilson (Sir D. Wilson) was the third President and continued in office for three years. He was the first of the Presidents who presided at an annual meeting. He was a true friend of the Association, he denied himself part of his holidays to attend its meetings, and did much to assist the Association when such assistance as he could and did give willingly was much needed, and proved a rich boon.

The Recording Secretary is an important officer of the Association, and in the early years of the life of the Association much of its success depended on the zeal and energy of the occupant of this office. I am not certain who held the office during the years 1862, '63 and '64. Archibald McMurchy, M.A., was the Recording Secretary during the years from 1865 to 1877, less the years 1867, '68 and '69, when the late James Hodgson, Esq., held the office. These were the critical years in the life of the Association, and Mr. McMurchy took great interest in it, gave much time to it, and wrought with intelligent zeal and devotion for its welfare and success. James L. Hughes filled the office with acceptance for the years 1878 and '79. R. W. Doan, Esq.—one of the founders of the Association—the present painstaking and efficient secretary, was appointed in 1880, and has held the position for a quarter of a century.

It may be of interest to know where the annual meetings of the Association have been held. The

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
WHERE THE MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD

first meeting was at Toronto, and at that meeting it was thought that the meetings should be held in the important centres of the province. Hamilton was selected for the meeting of 1862, at which Dr. D. Wilson gave an address. At this meeting Wm. Anderson, Esq.—now in the Audit Department of Toronto one of the early and staunch friends of the Association, its sometime treasurer, and who devoted much time and energy to it, moved the following resolution: "That this Association considers the provisions of the present School Act, in reference to the examination of teachers and the granting of certificates of qualification by County Boards of Public Instruction, have a tendency to lower the professional status of teachers, and retard the progress of common school education in the province, by subjecting that large class of teachers not holding Provincial Normal School Certificates to repeated and unnecessary examinations, and that it is highly desirable that a Central Board of Examiners be appointed, with power, after due examination, to grant certificates of equal extent and duration with those granted by the Chief Superintendent of Education to students who have attended the Provincial Normal School." This motion, after a long and spirited debate, was voted down by a small majority. Time brought the change. Kingston was chosen for the next place of meeting, but, in consequence of the apparent apathy of the teachers of Kingston the meeting was not held there but in Toronto. All the subsequent annual meetings except those of the years 1889 and 1890, which were held at Niagara-on-the-Lake have been held at Toronto.

J. SUDDABY
PRINCIPAL MODEL SCHOOL
BERLIN
CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM WILSON
PRINCIPAL MODEL SCHOOL
TORONTO JUNCTION
SECRETARY

The places in Toronto where the meetings have convened are: The Temperance Hall until 1868; the Mechanics' Institute (now Public Library), in 1868; the Education Department buildings in 1869 and the following years till 1903, with the exception of the two at Niagara. The meeting of 1903 was held in the halls of Toronto University.

In the course of years the Association has had a number of titles, but, though known by a number of different names, its object, the advancement of education in the province, has been always the same as at its organisation.

At the formation of the Association it was styled the "Teachers' Association of Canada West," which name it bore until 1865, when it was given the name, "The Teachers' Association of Canada." The birth of the Dominion of Canada is responsible for the next change of name. In 1867 it got the name "Ontario Teachers' Association"; this name in 1873 was lengthened, and the new one was "The Ontario Teachers' Association for the Advancement of Education." The year 1881 brought a return to one of its former titles, "The Ontario Teachers' Association." In 1892 there was a union of a number of educational associations, a revision of the constitution took place, and a new name was found and bestowed on the Association, "The Ontario Educational Association."

These frequent changes of name did not in the least affect unfavourably the vitality nor the prosperity of the Association. It has borne its changes of name placidly and with becoming equanimity, and in the meantime has increased in numbers and influence. From its organisation there were many

R. ALEXANDER

GALT

FORMER PRESIDENT

Grammer School teachers connected with the Association. Some who were not connected with it formed a separate society called the "Ontario Grammar School Masters' Association." In 1871 a committee on union brought in a report, of which the following is part: First, That the societies lately known under the names of the "Ontario Teachers' Association" and the "Ontario Grammar School Masters' Association" be united under the name of the "Ontario Teachers' Association"; second, That the Association shall have three different sections, representing respectively: 1. Teachers in High Schools; 2. Inspectors; 3. Public School Teachers.

This union proved to be a great benefit to the cause of education in the province by uniting the efforts of the teachers in the High and Public Schools.

In 1890 the following resolution was passed by the Association: "That this Association do hereby invoke the Kindergartners of Ontario to become an organic part of this Association, either as a separate section or as a sub-section of the Public School section." The invitation was accepted, and at the next annual meeting the Kindergartners met in a section of their own. Having thus wooed and won the Kindergartners the Association was in a more flourishing condition.

The next union took place in 1893. The teachers in the High Schools had formed the following associations, viz.: "The Modern Language Association"; "The Natural Science Association"; and "The Classical Association." The trustees of High and Public Schools also had an Association.

J. ELGIN TOM
INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS
GODERICH
CHAIRMAN

JOHN CONNOLLY
INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS
BROCKVILLE
SECRETARY

It was thought desirable that an effort be made to have all the educational Associations of the province united. In 1892 the constitution of the "Ontario Teachers' Association" was revised. The following is part of the revised constitution:

"Preamble: The objects of the Association are to elevate the character and advance the interests of the profession of teaching, and to promote the cause of education in Ontario.

"Article I., Name:—This Association shall be styled 'The Ontario Educational Association.'

"Article II., Departments: section 1. It shall consist of at least six departments: (1) College and High School Department; (2) Public School Department; (3) Training School Department; (4) Inspectors' Department; (5) Kindergarten Department; (6) Public and High School Trustees Department. Section 2. Other departments and sections may be organised in the manner prescribed in this constitution."

At this annual meeting (1904) there will be a new section added, the "Home Science Section." Thus was completed the formation of the Association as it is to-day.

It must not be supposed that the path of the Association has been devoid of difficulties. Hindrances and difficulties there were in its early days. A feeling more or less pronounced was shown between the graduates of the Normal School and the teachers holding County Board certificates, and later, a feeling that the teachers in the eastern part of the province were not sufficiently represented, also appeared, as evinced by the formation of an Association for Eastern Ontario.

JOHN SEATH, B.A., LL.D.

INSPECTOR OF HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGIATE INSTITUTES

FORMER PRESIDENT

But by the forbearance, loyalty and conciliatory actions of the majority of the members all difficulties were overcome, and gradually, harmony and professional fellowship prevailed. The members that aided in founding the Association how few of them are left and those, who by their fidelity to it in its days of struggle and stress bore the heat and burden of the day, may now view with pleasure and satisfaction the structure they helped to rear.

To mention some of the topics discussed and to quote some of the resolutions introduced during the Association's forty and four years of existence, may not be devoid of interest to some of the members. It discussed: Extension of Holidays; Qualifications of Teachers; Suitable Text-books; School Laws and Regulations; Industrial Schools; Compulsory Education; Superannuation; Representation of Teachers on Council of Public Instruction; Moral Training; Manual and Technical Education, etc., etc. Let these suffice.

It may not be out of place, too, to quote some of the motions or resolutions introduced. One motion which was discussed at the meeting in Hamilton was, "That our secretary be instructed to invite the attention of the Chief Superintendent of Education to the necessity of providing greater facility for school visiting on the part of teachers, requesting that not less than four days in the year may be placed at their disposal for that purpose, the particular days to be determined by the teachers and their employers." At the meeting of 1865 was another, "That in consequence of the small number of pupils attending the Common Schools in the rural sections during the month of July, the summer

JOSEPH GREY ELLIOTT
KINGSTON
PRESIDENT

G. A. AYLESWORTH
NEWBURGH
SECRETARY

vacation in Common Schools be four weeks, ending at the same time as the Grammar School vacation." At the meeting in 1866, "That the Association instructs the Special Committee on Primary Instruction, appointed yesterday, to procure and examine the publication used by the Home and Colonial Infant and Juvenile Training School, of London, England, and to visit by delegation or otherwise, the city of Oswego, and report upon the practical working of the English system as practised in the primary school in that city." At the meeting in 1867, "That the true civilisation and enlightenment of a country depend, to a great extent, on the mental and moral culture and refinement of the females of that country; therefore, in the opinion of this Convention, any scheme that would prevent girls from attending our Grammar Schools on terms of perfect equality with boys, would be a step in the wrong direction, and subversive of the best interests of our new and prosperous country; and that the proposed virtual exclusion of girls appears to be too hasty, as they have not had a fair trial since the passage of the new Grammar School Act." At the meeting of 1868, "That in the opinion of this Convention, the only effectual method of dealing with our juvenile vagrant population is to establish industrial schools for their reception and training, in which they would be brought up free from the hurtful influence of the streets, and prepared for the after duties of life." At the meeting of 1873 a report on Model Schools and Teachers' Institutes was adopted, of which the following is a part: "(*a*) That as teaching is a profession, its members require professional training,

MRS. ADA M. HUGHES
TORONTO
FORMER PRESIDENT

ARCHIBALD McMURCHY, B.A.
TORONTO
FORMER PRESIDENT

and that no teacher should receive a certificate who has not received such a training. (*b*) That in order to provide for such training, some existing Public School in each electoral division of the county, selected by the Council of Public Instruction, on the recommendation of the Public School Inspector, be constituted a Model School, and that all candidates for third-class certificates, who have not previously taught a Public School for three years, be required to receive a training as Pupil Teacher in some such Model School for that period. (*c*) That the head masters of said Model Schools be first-class certificated teachers of at least five years' standing."

Much yet remains to be done to place the teachers of the province where they should be in point of salary, and tenure or permanency of situation. Perhaps the following figures may point to a weakness that needs a remedy: In 1862 the number of teachers in the Public Schools was 4,406, of whom 3,115 were men, and 1,291 women. There was an increase over the previous year of 70 men, and a decrease of 14 women. Place in contrast with the figures of 1862 the figures of 1902, a period of 40 years. In 1902 the number of teachers in the Public Schools (not including Kindergartens) was 8,497, of whom 2,200 were men, and 6,297 were women. There was a decrease from the previous year of 153 men, and an increase of 247 women.

SAMUEL McALLISTER
TORONTO
FORMER PRESIDENT

JAMES L. HUGHES
TORONTO
INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

PROGRAMME

GENERAL ASSOCIATION, 1904

Tuesday, April 5th, 8 p.m.

President's Address. O. YOUNG.

"National Education." W. PETERSON, LL.D., Principal of McGill University.

Report of Committee on Superannuation Fund. JAMES L. HUGHES.

Unfinished Business.

Notices of Motion.

Wednesday, April 6th, 8 p.m.

Election of Officers.

Discussion of the Report on the Committee of Nineteen on the New Curriculum of Study for High and Public Schools.

Report *re* County Model Schools.

Report from the Public School Department on a New Canadian History for Schools.

Report on Reconstruction of the Educational Council.

Thursday, April 7th, 8 p.m.

An Address. HON. R. HARCOURT, Minister of Education.

An Address. MISS ISABEL BEVIER, of the University of Illinois.

A Conversazione in the Main Building. During the evening a number of interesting exhibits and experiments will be provided by the Scientific Departments of the University.